

Dulles 'Quite Satisfactory' After Surgery

Hernia Operation Includes Tests For Malignancy

Secretary of State Dulles underwent a hernia operation this morning at Walter Reed Army Hospital. His doctor pronounced the operation a success and said Mr. Dulles' condition was "quite satisfactory."

During the operation, tissue and fluids were removed for cancer tests. Lincoln White, State Department press officer, said the test results would be ready tomorrow noon.

Mr. White told newsmen a few minutes after the operation that the cancer tests were being made to determine whether there had been any recurrence or spread of an earlier malignancy. In 1956, Mr. Dulles was operated on for removal of a cancerous portion of the lower intestine.

The hospital has elaborate arrangements for quick findings on an examination of tissue for malignancy and often preliminary results are provided to the surgeon before he finishes operation. In many cases, however, the tests take hours or days.

"Purely Precautionary"

Mr. White said he "would assume" the microscopic examination of the tissue and fluid is "purely a precautionary measure."

He replied "No" when asked if he could obtain more precise information than his own assessment from doctors in the case.

Reporters asked Mr. White at his regular noon briefing if there was a delay in releasing information doctors might already have as to evidence of cancer recurrence.

"Not to my knowledge," Mr. White replied.

The last medical examination for a recurrence of cancer was given the Secretary in December, Mr. White recalled, and there was "no indication of any recurrence or spread" of cancer at that time.

President Informed

The entire operation took less than an hour, Mr. White said. Word that it was a success was relayed quickly to President Eisenhower by his personal physician, Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, who was one of the

doctors in the operating room. "A successful left inguinal herniorrhaphy was performed

on the Secretary of State this morning," the statement by Mr. White said. "During the course of the operative procedure tissue and fluid were removed for microscopic examination. The Secretary's immediate post-operative condition is quite satisfactory."

Family at Hospital

Mrs. Dulles, the Secretary's sister Eleanor and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Allen Dulles, were at the hospital during the operation.

Maj. Gen. Leonard D. Heaton, commanding officer of Walter Reed, performed the operation.

He was assisted by Brig. Gen. James Forsee, chief of surgery, and Capt. Donald A. Bolt, resident in surgery.

The President's personal physician, Gen. Snyder; Walter Reed's chief of medicine, Brig. Gen. Francis Pruitt; and Secretary Dulles' personal physician, Dr. A. D. Daughton, were observers. Col. Harvey Slocum was chief of anesthesia.

Mr. White told reporters the doctors could not tell by observation whether there was any trace of malignancy as they repaired the hernia.

Officials explained that in a rupture of the abdominal wall a little sac is created which pushes through the abdominal lining.

This sac is always opened up, it was explained, to be sure that nothing is removed that should not be.

It was at this point, officials said, that the fluid was found in the sac. Tissue from the sac was also removed for examination.

Mr. White said doctors made no attempt to reach the inflamed colon which has been bothering the Secretary since last November 30.

The information office at Walter Reed said the operation started about 8:10 a.m. Newsmen were told of its conclusion about two hours later.

The Secretary, who will be 71 February 25, entered the hospital Tuesday. Since then each bulletin on his condition has reported good sleep, good appetite, good spirits.

Mr. Dulles got what he called a few weeks leave of absence from President Eisenhower for the operation and recuperation. He left the State Department in charge of his top aides.